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Anthropologists Divided Over Role As Secret Agents

By Henry W. Pierce
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PITTSBURGH, Nov. 19—The Nation's anthropologists were deadlocked tonight over what, if any, role they should play in undercover intelligence work.

Members of the American Anthropological Association, nearly 3000 of whom are holding their annual meeting here, were unable to agree on the wording of a proposed resolution governing anthropologists' relationships with both Government and private sponsors.

In a closed session, the organization's Executive Board referred the resolution back to the Committee on Research Problems and Ethics for further clarification.

After it has been reworded, the resolution will go as a mail ballot to the 1200-member Council of Fellows. Final

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action is not expected before Christmas.

The organization is attempting to draw up guidelines based on a report by Prof. Ralph Beals of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Beals said he has evidence that some anthropologists have served as undercover agents.

This is a deterrent to the long-range interests of anthropological research, which depends on close ties with the people being studied, he said.

"We won't have their confidence if they think we're spies," Beals said.

The problem, he says, applies to all social sciences.

The issue was triggered about two years ago by Project Camelot, a Defense Department study of Communist methods of capitalizing on revolutionary change in new countries.

Project Camelot was to have been carried out in Chile but was canceled.

In another move, the anthropologists voted to condemn the use of extraordinary military measures in Vietnam, including napalm, gas, chemical defoliants, heavy bombing of civilian centers and the torture and killing of prisoners of war.